

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6040

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 10195

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON OBSOLESCENCE

REFS: A) STATE 70982, B) OECD PARIS 8965

1. COMMENT AND QUESTIONS IN REF A SUBMITTED TO BELGIAN DEL IN WRITING APRIL 1. HE PREFERS THAT THEY NOT BE PUT ON THE RECORD BECAUSE BELGIAN PROPOSAL IS STILL IN GESTATION AND HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE.

2. FOR THIS REASON STEVENS NOW SAYS HIS AUTHORITIES WILL NO LONGER ASK FOR DISCUSSION OF THEIR PROPOSAL IN MAY AT SAME TIME AS UK PROPOSALS ON LIST REVIEW ORGANIZATION. INSTEAD, THEY ARE PREPARED TO HAVE IT DISCUSSED IN THE FALL--PERHAPS IN OCTOBER--BUT WILL INSIST THAT MEMBERS BE REPRESENTED IN THAT DISCUSSION AT THE POLICY LEVEL. THEY WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH DISCUSSION BY COCOM DELEGATES AND SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO CAPITALS.

3. THE BELGIAN FORMULA APPEARS TO BE STILL VERY MUCH IN FORMATIVE STAGE. ACCORDING TO STEVENS'S LATEST ACCOUNTS MEMBERS WISHING TO HAVE ITEMS FREED UNDER OBSOLESCENCE CRITERION WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT A LIST OF

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THEM FOUR MONTHS BEFORE START OF LIST REVIEW. MEMBERS WISHING TO MAINTAIN SUCH ITEMS UNDER EMBARGO WOULD HAVE TO FILE JUSTIFICATION TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE. GROUP OF EXPERTS WOULD THEN MEET TO CERTIFY WHICH ITEMS COULD BE FREED. UNANIMITY WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR RETENTION UNDER EMBARGO. BELGIUM WOULD BE OPEN TO A PERIOD LONGER THAN FIVE YEARS PROVIDED OBSOLESCENCE PRINCIPLE

WERE ESTABLISHED IN SOME FORM. STEVENS COMMENTED THAT QUESTION 3(A) OF REF A WOULD BE OVERTAKEN BY REQUIREMENT OF FILING LIST OF ITEMS CONSIDERED OBSOLESCEMENT.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS EVIDENT NOW THAT BELGIAN PROPOSAL HAD NOT BEEN WELL THOUGHT OUT WHEN IT WAS PREMATURELY ANNOUNCED IN COMMITTEE, SINCE IT CHANGES WITH EACH PASSING WEEK. QUESTIONS IN REF A WILL COMPEL BELGIANS TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT ITS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS. IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE THAT IDEA CONSIDERED AND DEBATED AT THE POLICY LEVEL. FORTUNATELY THIS DEBATE WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE AUTUMN.

5. WILL REPORT ON CONTENTS OF PROPOSAL WHEN FORMALLY SUBMITTED, PROBABLY AFTER EASTER RECESS.
TURNER

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Message Attributes

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